



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Keeping young children safe around roads



Walking is an important part of children's lives. It is important for their health and fitness, and their ability to get around their neighbourhood independently.

Being a pedestrian can be a risky business, especially for children in busy cities. Roads are designed with adults in mind, but children are not 'little adults'. As a child's brain is still developing they may not fully understand the dangers around them to make 'safe' decisions.

Set a good example for children

- ✔ Explain what you are doing when you cross the road together.
- ✔ Explain words like “**fast**”, “**slow**”, “**near**” and “**far**”. Talk about signs and traffic lights and the safe places to cross.
- ✔ Point out dangerous places and **where not to cross** – near bends in the road or where children might be hidden from view.
- ✔ Make sure children get in and out of cars on the kerb side (safety door), and hold your child's hand at all times when near traffic.





Teach your child how to cross roads safely.

Hold your child's hand, choose a safe place to cross – where you have a good clear view of traffic in all directions and where drivers can see you, **and follow the SLLT procedure:**

What is SLLT?



When the road is clear or all traffic has stopped, walk straight across the road and continue **LOOKING** and **LISTENING** for traffic while crossing.

i Teach this same procedure to children about crossing driveways and treating them like mini roads - **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK, before crossing driveways that cross a footpath to check for reversing cars.**

Remember:

- Make the trip to school together along the safest route and use safe crossing places as an example for your child to follow.
- Choose a safe meeting place for your child to wait when being picked up from school. Never call them over from the opposite side of the street. Cross the street with them, holding their hand.
- Whenever possible, make sure your child wears clothing that is easy to see when out and about.

